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Politics/Status of Women/Health/Education/Economy

Political

1. We, in Afghanistan, let the Russians come in and move freely about our country because we know that they won't have any influence on our people. Islam is itself socialistic and our people are 100% Islamic. There is no room for Communism in Afghanistan.
2. Regarding Afghanistan's relations with its immediate neighbors, I can say that our relations with Iran are good, with Pakistan very bad, and with the USSR we don't have very active relations. I should point out that the Afghans are all tough soldiers. Every Afghan man and woman (except some of those in the cities) can shoot and ride a horse.

Status of Women

3. Unfortunately, women in the cities still wear the veil, but in the villages they do not, because life is not as dangerous and it is not considered that they must be protected as much. Women do not have the vote in Afghanistan.

Health

4. All hospital facilities are maintained and financed by the Afghan Government. There are no hospitals for private paying patients at all. Everything is run by the government and is free. We lack money, however, and our hospitals are therefore not well equipped. We also lack trained indigenous personnel. It is only recently that women entered nursing. The prime minister set the example by sending three of his daughters to nursing school. There are no midwives, and infant mortality, especially in the villages, is immense. Nevertheless, our people are the strongest and healthiest in the East.
5. There have been no major epidemics in Afghanistan for the past 14 years. Previous to that cholera and typhoid were carried in from Pakistan. Now our biggest disease problem is malaria. There was a lot of malaria in North Afghanistan. The World Health Organization (WHO) came here and practically eliminated it. Now that health conditions have improved so markedly in that area, there has been a resettlement of Baluch [?] which had previously been depopulated. Also under WHO, TB fighting squads have been organized. We are also concerned about cattle diseases, particularly abortis fever [?]. We had a bad epidemic of this in 1951, for which WHO sent in serum.
6. Afghanistan has a medical school with a six year course. In our medical research we stress diseases found locally. It is very difficult to get cadavers for medical students to work on. Autopsy and dissection has to

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be done illegally and surreptitiously.

Education

7. Education is free, but not compulsory. Every child up to the age of 10 may receive education in government schools and at government expense. Certain schools provide boarding arrangements. Still, there is only 5% literacy in Afghanistan.
8. Some students are sent to the foreign schools in Kabul after their primary education. Then they must work for the government for a certain period after graduating. The following foreign schools are functioning in Kabul:
 - a. French school. 2000 students.
 - b. American school. 3000 students.
 - c. British school. Four teachers. I do not know the number of students.
 - d. German school. 1500 students. About 80 teachers, most of whom are Austrian, plus some Germans.

Employees of all these schools are paid by the Afghan Government. Instruction is given in the Persian language until completion of the sixth grade, after which teaching in foreign languages is begun at the schools listed above. The English language is now the most popular, but formerly French and German were.

9. Boys and girls are educated separately. In the cities children go to school much more regularly than in the villages. When we educate our people we can then control the masses better and reduce their brutality.

Economy

10. We are building a hydro-electric scheme (the second-biggest in the whole world) which will start functioning within nine months (by November 1953). This is being supervised by the US firm of Morrison, Knudsen Co. As a result of this project, begun seven years ago, we will water two million additional acres of land and distribution of this land will be limited to 10 acres per person, with no opportunity for any one person to acquire more than that amount. This project will also be helpful to the textile industry.
11. Afghanistan produces three-fourths of the world's karakul. We had US \$30,000,000 worth of production of this wool last year (1952). Industry is absolutely free in Afghanistan and is not subject to government control within the country. There is control over international trade, however. Sheep wool is sold for export through a monopoly in which the government has a big share, so as to control foreign currency and keep it within Afghanistan.

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